GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:193
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2016
Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme
Agrawal Shri Rajendra

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme in the country including Uttar Pradesh in a scientific manner by taking level, quality and quantity of water into consideration, if so, the details and salient features thereof;
(b) the financial and physical progress made thereunder so far, State/UT-wise;
(c) whether local communities are being made aware about the limited quantity and specific quality of water resources and urging them to conserve water; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the further steps taken/to be taken towards proper utilization of water resources?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(Prof. SANWAR LAL JAT):

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. â€ *193 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2016 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING "AQUIFER MAPPING AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME" ASKED BY SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL, HON'BLE M.P, LOK SABHA:

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation is implementing a Scheme for 'Ground Water Management & Regulation' in which aquifer mapping is a component, during the XII Plan Period. The aim of the Scheme is to delineate aquifer disposition on a scale of 1:50000 in 3D and their characterization along with area specific ground water management plans. An area of 8.89 lakh sq. km has been targeted to be covered during the XII Plan period, which includes Over-Exploited, Critical and Semi-critical areas prioritized for mapping in this phase.

An area of 116347 sq. km, out of which, 17893 sq.km area falls under the State of Uttar Pradesh has been covered under the aquifer mapping programme and an expenditure of Rs. 410.49 crore has been incurred by the CGWB till January 2016.

(c) & (d) On completion of this programme information on aquifer mapping will be shared with the respective State Governments for ground water management with community involvement, wherein, details on aquifer-wise ground water quantity and quality will be shared with stakeholders. The prepared Management Plans will include strategies and measures to be adopted for sustainability of ground water resources including its proper utilization.
Central Government has undertaken several steps towards proper utilization of water resources:
â€¢ The National Water Policy (2012) formulated by this Ministry, inter-alia, advocates conservation, promotion and protection of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall and other management measures. The National Water Policy (2012) has been forwarded to all State Governments/ UTs and concerned Ministries/ Departments of Central Government for adoption of the Policy.
â€¢ This Ministry has circulated a Model Bill (2005) to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes
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provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model Bill. 30 States/UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules & regulations or by including provisions in building bye-laws or through suitable Government Orders.
â€¢ CGWB has also prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during 2013, involving ground water scientists/experts. The Master Plan envisages construction of 1.11 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the Country at an estimated cost of Rs. 79,178 Crore to harness 85 BCM (Billion Cubic Metre) of water. The augmented ground water resources will enhance the availability of water for drinking, domestic, industrial and irrigation purposes. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.
â€¢ As per Schedule-I of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment ground water constitute a special focus area for MGNREGA works and about 2/3rd of the expenditure is directly related to construction of water harvesting structures.
â€¢ Besides, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued directives to the Chief Secretaries of all States and the Administrators of all UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water / rain water harvesting.
â€¢ CGWB has been organizing mass awareness programmes in the country to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.
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